

REMARKS

By this amendment, claims 1-11 and 14-15 are pending, in which claims 1 and 11 are currently amended, and no claims are canceled, withdrawn, or newly presented. No new matter is introduced.

This RCE is submitted to allow additional references to be considered by the Examiner.

The final Office Action mailed July 2, 2003 rejected claims 1-11 and 14-15 as obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103 based on *Zollinger et al.* (US 5,999,947). The rejection of claims 1-11 and 14-15 is respectfully traversed because *Zollinger et al.* does not teach or otherwise suggest the features of claims 1-11 and 14-15.

Independent claims 1 and 11 as amended each recite a second copy "resulting from said transmitting and updating." Accordingly, the response to arguments in the Examiner's Answer, page 12, that the claims do not set forth "a cause and effect relationship between the updating and the existence of a 'non-overlapping database column'" is rendered moot.

The Examiner's Answer of February 24, 2004, on page 14, correctly acknowledges that *Zollinger et al.* does **not** specifically teach "dropping the first column," but contends, "it is obvious for Zollinger's system perform [sic] **additions and deletions of records** and also perform adding an extra field or column to a database table (see col. 6, lines 19-25). Therefore, Zollinger's system does have the capability for 'dropping' (deleting) a column from a database table to synchronize the two database tables."

However, *Zollinger et al.* states (col. 6: 18-25, emphasis added):

As used herein, a "database change event" is anything that changes the state of a database, such as **additions, deletions, or modification of records**. Furthermore, other types of events may make changes to a database including, by way of example and not limitation, sorting a database, **adding** an extra field or column to a database table, changing "metadata" parameters such as passwords, permissions, logins, structure, etc.

This cited portion of *Zollinger et al.* merely refers to a “database change event” as including additions, deletions, or modifications of records, which are different from columns in a database environment, and of other types of events including adding an extra field or column to a database table. There is no disclosure or suggestion of “dropping the first column” as positively recited by claim 9, and thus the Examiner has not met his initial burden of establishing a *prima facie* basis to deny patentability to the claimed invention. *In re Mayne*, 41 USPQ2d 1451 (Fed. Cir. 1997); *In re Deuel*, 34 USPQ2d 1210 (Fed. Cir. 1995); *In re Bell*, 26 USPQ2d 1529 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Oetiker*, 24 USPQ2d 1443 (Fed. Cir. 1992).

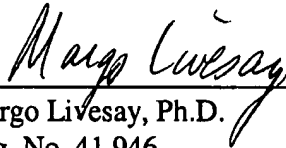
In view of the above reasoning, Applicant respectfully requests the indication that independent claims 1, 9, and 11 are allowable. Also, claims 2-8, 10 and 14-15, depending correspondingly from these independent claims, are also allowable for at least the reasons proffered for the allowability of the independent claims. Additionally, these dependent claims are separately patentable on their own merits.

Therefore, the present application, as amended, overcomes the objections and rejections of record and is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration is respectfully requested. If any unresolved issues remain, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned attorney at 703-425-8516 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully Submitted,

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